

Shan e Nuzul: Circumstances of the Revelation of The Holy Quran

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In relation to the discussion regarding the Circumstances of the Revelation there are some Prophecies which are related to the future. People cannot understand them except if they *believe in the unseen* and realise the glory of their fulfilment when they are fulfilled.¹ I dispute with the commentators of the Community because I have studied them from this perspective. Because I have studied the Circumstances of the Revelation from this perspective I therefore wish to prove to the world that the Circumstances of the Quranic Revelations often becomes apparent in the future and when it becomes apparent there is no need for further clarification.

In order to prove it I have selected a few verses from among many and when I will recite them you will be amazed as to the extraordinary glory of this Divine book:

In the name of Allah the Gracious the Merciful.
When the sun is wrapped.
When the stars are obscured.
When the mountains will be made to move.
When the ten-month pregnant she-camels will be abandoned.
When the wild animals will be gathered together.
When the seas are made to mingle.
When people are brought together.
When the girl-child buried
alive is questioned about.
'For what offence has she been put to death?'
When the books will be extensively published and spread.
When the heaven will be peeled off (*laid bare*).
When the hellfire will be made to rage.
When the Paradise is brought nigh.
Then every person will know what they have
wrought.²

¹ This is that perfect Book; there is no doubt in it; a guidance for the righteous.
Who believe in the unseen and keep up the Prayer and spend out of what We provide for them.

The Holy Quran. Al Baqarah [The Heifer]: 3, 4.

See 'Belief in the Unseen' in *Revelation, Rationality, Knowledge & Truth*. (Islam International Publications Ltd, 1998). 271 – 292.

² Al Takwir [The Enfolding]: 1- 15.

See 'Unveiling of the *Unseen* by the Quran – A Historic Perspective: The Prophecy About Archaeological

All these verses cohere with each other. *When the sun will be wrapped up and when the stars are obfuscated*. These are not things that are to happen after Doomsday. **‘When the sun is wrapped’** can only be taken to mean the Holy Prophet ﷺ and the sun of Islam. The sequencing of this verse reveals that the sun can only mean [what is referred to as] the Ever-resplendent Lamp.³ This is the age in which his glory and resplendence has been veiled and the Companions and scholars are those stars who were responsible for keeping [the lamp of] Islam lit whose refulgence has been obscured. **‘When the mountains will be made to move’** are the mountains and put into motion. After having captured the spiritual scene in the first two verses it speaks of world affairs. This verse contains both the meanings. One is that the mountains will be much traversed and secondly that heavy-weighting things akin to mountains will be moved from one place to another. Flat ground is made by actually blowing up mountains and bringing it into use. All three of these things are happening in the current age. Apart from these the word *mountains* can also be used for governments to mean that certain governments will exercise authority over the world. All these things which are mentioned in these verses are happening in the present age. On one hand the sun of Islam has been wrapped up and on the other very great nations have risen to dominate the world. **‘When the ten-month pregnant she-camels will be abandoned’** for such weight to be carried from one place to another reveals that different modes of Transport will be invented and she-camels will serve no use. This is one of the animals that have been discarded but other animals will become very valuable and that is mentioned in **‘When the wild animals will be gathered together’** and that different kinds of animals will be gathered in various zoos across the world. **‘When the seas are made to mingle’** when these animals are being transported from one place to another it is obvious that it is being done through some form of transportation which requires a vast and secure Transport System. The people of that age could not have imagined it. The animals that can be seen in zoos across the world are as a result of the camels having been made redundant and new forms of Transport having been invented. The translation that ought to be made of **‘When the seas are made to mingle’** is absent from our commentaries. Even though this is the age in which the oceans are full of ships. [Edward William] Lane’s *An Arabic-English Lexicon* [vols i-viii 1863-1893] has also made this translation under the word *Biharun Sujjirat*. Outside of the times of wars the seas are full of ferries these days. **‘When people are brought together’** all the Transport will become a means of gathering together the whole world into a global body. This is all happening through the U.N.O. and various regional pacts. The Circumstances of the Revelation in these verses are so consistent and the events of the age are unfolding exactly as stated. Then it goes on to say:

When the girl-child buried alive is questioned about.
‘For what offence has she been put to death?’⁴

It would be an age of rule and order. The world will be tied together through law. One’s progeny will no longer remain one’s personal property but the property of the nation. There is Child Labour going on in Pakistan and India and people over here are asking why it is happening. So it would be an age of international law. Every country will be answerable about fundamental rights through the U.N.O. **‘Brought together’** with equal rights and then it says **‘When the books will be extensively published and spread’** there is no better way of coming together than this; even TV and Radio are not as effective as newspapers are in joining people. This is the age of newspapers. That age will be an age of joining families through documentation. Books and literature will be widely published. This could never have been imagined at the time of the Holy Prophet ﷺ. The word **‘published’** reveals that it

Exploration’. Ibid, 586 – 606.

³ As a Summoner unto Allah by His command and as a radiant Lamp.

Al Ahzab [The Coalition]: 47.

⁴ Al Takwir [The Enfolding]: 9, 10.

will be an age of print and publication. We continue to receive news of scientific advancement. The sky will be laid/skinned bare. Education has granted power to humans. The age of widely publicised documents is to do with knowledge. **‘When the hellfire will be made to rage’** after the sun of Islam having been packed away and after all these inventions the peace and tranquillity that was connected to the Holy Prophet ﷺ would have disappeared. Whatever one does would be for the Hellfire. It would only ever cause the blazing up of global wars/catastrophes. After mentioning the inventions all over the world it speaks of the science showing its capabilities and how far it can advance and this is what is meant by the Fire. See how every verse and event connects with its precedent. The result of each verse is mentioned in the one following on:

Do not the unbelievers see that the heavens and the earth were *a closed-up mass*, then We clove them asunder? Then with Water did We create every living thing. Will they not believe?

We have made in the earth firm mountains, that they may provide them (*humans*) food, and We have made therein wide pathways that they may be rightly guided.

We have made the heaven a roof, well protected; yet they turn away from its Signs.

He it is Who created the night and the day, and the sun and the moon; everything is gliding along smoothly in *its orbit*.⁵

This Divine Word is astonishing. At the time of the Holy Prophet ﷺ there was no concept whatsoever that the heavens and Earth were joined like a closed up ball. The interesting thing is that it is the disbelievers who are addressed here who deny God and the Messenger for it was the disbelievers who were to reveal in future the secret of the heavens and Earth having been رَتْقًا [‘**a closed-up mass**’] and the same who deny God in the present age were made to prove it so as to say: *O disbelievers! You are the very ones who are telling people of the world things which prove the truth of the Quran. Then We ripped the ball apart and life sprang forth from water.* The purpose was the creation of life. The life which apparently existed without water is not life but Organisms because life comes from water. Common Bio-units are born from water. Water was created to be the source of life and then the

⁵ Al Anbiya [The Prophets]: 31-34.

Many scholars have translated the phrase أُنْمِيتُنْ as ‘**quake**’ which if accepted would mean that God is counting His bounties upon mankind by reminding them that He has created mountains to cause great earthquakes spreading destructions far and wide. Unfortunately, it has been ignored that the word نَمِيتُ is derived from *mada* which means to provide food. The word مَائِدَةٌ used in *The Holy Qur’an* is from the same infinitive. With this meaning in view the entire understanding of this verse will be transformed. It will remind mankind that God has created mountains which are essential for providing food to all living being. The water is constantly lifted from lakes, seas and oceans by evaporation carried by higher altitude to get condensed into thicker particles. The existence of mountains is essential for turning the vapour into water again, thus producing widespread rains which are channelled back to earth to create immense food chains. This translation is the only one which fits into the context and is in perfect agreement with the remaining part of the verse. The correct meaning, therefore, would be: ‘He has entrenched mountains over the earth so that they may provide you with food, and rivers and tracks so that you may be guided.’

The relation of water and food is obvious. In the history of civilisation it was rivers which played the most important role in making the mountainous terrains possible and paths were carved along the courses of rivers.

Introduction to the *Surahs* of *The Noble Quran*: With Brief Explanatory Notes to Some Verses, (2002).

See also *Revelation*, 304 – 311.

systems of water were created subsequently along with the mountains. I translate تَمِيد [‘sustain’] in verse number 32 as ‘**Laid the table for you**’. Imam al-Raghib has also made the same translation that food is prepared for you from the water that flows from the mountains. Mountains benefit the Earth in diverse ways. Then after this ‘**We have made the heaven a roof, well protected;**’ there are layers between the heaven and Earth as a result of which some of the rays falling from space are absorbed here or there and some descend onto the Earth purified. All these discoveries were revealed through the discoveries of these disbelievers. But being blind of rationality they deny God even after having discovered all these things. All these aspects are included in detail in my forthcoming book.⁶

Some other verses mention the mingling together of oceans and the merging together of oceans is a very interesting subject. I can boast that there are only two verses about this in *The Holy Quran* and it has only ever happened twice in the world where two oceans have been merged.⁷ The first mention occurs in *The Holy Quran* in this way that:

The two waters are not alike: this river is palatable sweet *and* pleasant to drink and that sea is salty *and* bitter. Yet from each you eat fresh meat and fish out ornaments to wear. Also thou seest the vessels ploughing courses therein so seek of His bounty and be grateful.⁸

These are two separate oceans. They are not alike. From both you eat meat. This topic is also related to the spiritual world to mean the ocean of Islam and the oceans of other religions from which everyone derives benefit.

Then it is in Surah al-Rahman [The Merciful]: ‘**He has made the two bodies of water flow. They will one day meet.**’ [20]. He will merge the two oceans which will surge towards each other ‘**Between them there is a barrier now which neither can trespass in an act of defiance**’ [21]. This refers to the Suez Canal. When they would merge - The passage would fill with vessels the size of mountains. Particularly during war this canal is full of ships. The international experts say that if this Canal had not been made it would have been impossible to unite both the easts and wests.⁹

The Panama Canal passes through a place called Panama in Costa Rica to the north of Central America. This is exactly the place referred to in the verses of *The Holy Quran*:

He it is Who shall merge the 2 seas together. This palatable *and* sweet, that saltish *and* bitter. But between them He has (*presently*) placed a barrier and a massive partition.¹⁰

Remember that the water of the Pacific Ocean is fresher or more drinkable in comparison to all the other oceans but that is not in itself sufficient indication. It says that there is a great barrier between them but when they *Merge* both fresh and saltish water would be mingling. There is no other place in the world except Panama where the saltish water of the sea is made into freshwater before it meets another ocean. There was a breach of 82 kilometres between the Pacific and the Atlantic Oceans which was joined through the Panama Canal. The French initiated this project in 1881 but then abandoned it. They resumed it again in 1889 but where

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ See also *Revelation*, 595, 596.

⁸ Al Fatir [The Originator]: 13.

⁹ Lord of both the Occidents and Lord of both the Orientals!

Al Rahman [The Merciful]: 18.

¹⁰ Al Furqan [The Criterion]: 54.

unsuccessful again. In 1903 America took up this project in order to assist the Panama Revolt and break the Colombian federation. During this time they turned their attentions to Panama and Colombia was turned out and the rights to Panama were settled and it was officially opened in 1914. The U.N.O. governs it by right from 1978-1999. Its freshwater is of special interest. It passes over freshwater lakes and bogs spread over 82 kilometres and the sea is not permitted to pass into the other sea unless it passes through these and turns into freshwater. This verse cannot possibly be applied anywhere else except to Panama. One is freshwater and the other saltish with a distance of 82 kilometres in between them both. This is what is known as the Circumstances of the Revelation where things pertaining to the future are mentioned in a way that [its meaning] cannot swing any other way.

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